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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. PAUL EHRLICH, of Frankfort, and Dr. Emil Warburg, the president of the "Reichsanstalt" at Charlottenburg, have been made members of the Bavarian-Maximilian Order for art and science.

PROFESSOR J. HADAMARD, professor of analytical and celestial mechanics in the Collège de France, has been elected a member of the Paris Académie des Sciences in the section of geometry, in succession to the late Professor Henri Poincaré.

DR. PAUL MARCHAL, of the Agricultural Institute of Paris, has been elected to membership in the Paris Academy of Sciences in the section of anatomy and zoology.

THE Herbert Spencer Lecture this year will be delivered by Dr. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, professor of natural history, University College, Dundee, on February 13. The subject of the lecture will be "On Growth and Form."

SIR RICKMAN GODLEE, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, will deliver the Hunterian oration in the theater of the college on February 14.

PROFESSOR JAMES HAYDEN TUFTS, head of the department of philosophy in the University of Chicago, has been made chairman of the Illinois Committee on Social Legislation.

THE Geological Society of London will this year award its medals and funds as follows: Wollaston medal, Rev. Osmond Fisher; Murchison medal, Mr. G. Barrow; Lyell fund, Mr. S. S. Buckman; Bigsby medal, Sir Thomas Henry Holland, K.C.I.E., F.R.S.; Wollaston fund, Mr. W. W. King; Murchison fund, Mr. E. E. L. Dixon; Lyell fund, Mr. Llewellyn Treacher; Barlow-Jameson fund, Mr. J. B. Scrivenor and Mr. Bernard Smith.

DR. FRIEDRICH SCHOLT, of Heidelberg, known for his services in the cement industry, has received an honorary doctorate of engineering from the Technical Institute at Brunswick.

MAJOR C. H. HILLS is proposed by the council for election as the next president of the Royal Astronomical Society.

E. A. Wood, C.E. (Cornell, '08), has resigned as professor of civil engineering in Chang Ha College, Foochow, China, and left there on December 30. He expects to travel in North China and the Philippines and then return home *via* the Suez Canal.

THE British secretary of state for war has approved of the following appointments on the army medical advisory board: as civilian physiologist, Dr. Leonard Hill, F.R.S., and as civilian sanitary expert, Dr. Henry S. Kenwood.

THE annual meeting of the Chicago Academy of Sciences was held the evening of January 14 and the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President—Dr. T. C. Chamberlin.

First Vice-president—Dr. Geo. S. Isham.

Second Vice-president—Dr. Henry C. Cowles.

Secretary—Dr. Wallace W. Atwood.

For trustee to succeed himself for a term of six years—Mr. Frederick L. Wilk.

For membership in the board of scientific governors—Dr. N. S. Davis, Mr. Albert Dickinson.

CAPTAIN ROALD AMUNDSEN will speak at the University of Wisconsin on February 10.

LIEUTENANT GRAETZ, the German explorer, according to Reuter's Agency, is making preparations for an Anglo-German airship expedition across New Guinea. The airship is to be built in Germany, but to have an English name and to be manned half by Germans and half by Englishmen. The expedition will leave Europe in October and will be absent two years. Its base will be a transport stationed off the New Guinea coast. In May Lieutenant Graetz expects to be able to make a preliminary flight in the airship from Berlin to London.

At the meeting of the Sigma Xi Society of the University of Chicago, held in the Quadrangle Club on January 7, Dr. Aaron Aaronsohn, director of the Jewish agricultural experiment station at Haifa, Palestine, gave an address on the possibilities of increasing the world's wheat supply by the introduction of wild wheat from Palestine,

which is especially adapted to growth in arid regions.

MR. A. N. JOHNSON, state highway engineer of Illinois, delivered an address before the students and faculty of the College of Engineering of the University of Illinois, on January 15, entitled "The Present Status of Road Work in Illinois."

MR. DONALD F. MACDONALD, geologist of the Panama Canal, spoke to students of the department of geology of Columbia University on January 17 on "The General Geology of the Panama Canal Zone."

At the recent meeting of the American Society of Zoologists at Cleveland, Ohio, the following resolution was presented and approved by the society:

In the death of Nettie Maria Stevens on the fourth day of May, 1912, this society loses one of its ablest members, one whose work upon the relation of the chromosomes to the transmission of sexual characters is of fundamental value. Entering upon these painstaking studies in her later years, she soon attained to a position of leadership in a peculiarly difficult field of research.

Her achievements were a credit to Bryn Mawr College, from which she obtained the well-deserved honor of the degree of doctor of philosophy, and in the world of science her place among cytologists is both secure and high.

DR. THOMAS VOLNEY MUNSON, who while engaged as a nurseryman at Dennison, Texas, made valuable experiments on the breeding of fruits, especially in viticulture, died on January 21, aged seventy years.

THE Earl of Crawford, who built an observatory at Dunecht and made contributions to astronomy, died on January 30.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces several examinations for positions under the Department of Agriculture on February 24 and 26, including forest pathologist at a salary from \$1,980 to \$2,400; assistant forest pathologist, from \$1,440 to \$1,800; assistant in xyotomy, at \$1,000; assistant in soil surveying, at \$960 to \$1,200; assistant in forest management, at \$1,400; examiner of

surveys, at \$1,200 to \$1,500, and assistant irrigation engineer at \$1,200 to \$1,600.

THE New York State Forestry Association was organized at a convention in Syracuse on January 16, attended by some fifty representatives of the various parts of the state. This association has for its object the fostering of genuine forestry progress in the state of New York, and in this enterprise it hopes to represent effectively the spirit of forest conservation in the state at large and of the various associations interested in the welfare of the forests of New York. During the convention valuable papers on forestry subjects were presented and the nearly fifty guests at the evening banquet were addressed by President Drinker, of Lehigh University, president of the American Forestry Association. The president of the association is Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton, director of the New York Botanical Garden and Museums, and its secretary, Dean Hugh Potter Baker, of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University.

THE State Microscopical Society of Illinois held its annual meeting on January 9, at which the following officers were elected:

President—Albert McCalla, Ph.D.

First Vice-president—Walter F. Herzberg.

Second Vice-president—Frank Harmon.

Treasurer—Frank I. Packard.

Corresponding Secretary—N. S. Amstutz.

Recording Secretary—V. A. Latham, M.D., F.R.M.S.

Trustees—M. D. Ewell, M.D., LL.D., D. L. Zook, S. S. Graves, M.D., B. U. Hills, H. F. Fuller.

The conjoint soirée with the Chicago Academy of Sciences set for February 12 has been postponed to March 12 on account of the extensive changes in the electric lighting of the academy building from the direct to the indirect system not being completed.

THE president and fellows of Harvard College voted, on January 27, to establish the Harvard University Press, for the publication of works of a high scholarly character. For some years the university publication office, besides printing the catalogues, department

pamphlets and other official documents, has found it possible, in spite of its limited resources, to issue from time to time a few special works, until it now publishes seven periodicals and more than eighty books, ranging from treatises on Indic philology to practical directions for American lumbermen. To organize and extend this activity, so as to make the university properly effective as a publishing center for scholarly books, is the object of the new foundation. The press announces several noteworthy volumes as in preparation, including books by the late Professor James Barr Ames, of the Law School, and by Professors George Foot Moore, Eugene Wambaugh, Arthur E. Kennelly, George L. Kittredge, Charles H. Haskins, George A. Reisner and W. B. Munro. The board of syndics who will decide on the books to be published are Robert Bacon, fellow of Harvard College, chairman; George Foot Moore, professor of the history of religion; Arthur E. Kennelly, professor of electrical engineering; George L. Kittredge, professor of English; Charles H. Thurber, member of the firm of Ginn and Company; Edwin F. Gay, professor of economics and dean of the graduate school of business administration, and W. B. Cannon, professor of physiology. The director of the press is Charles Chester Lane, for the last five years publication agent of the university.

It will be remembered that after the conference for the discussion of theories of radiation, held in Brussels in 1911, Mr. Ernest Solvay, of that city, established an International Physical Institute with an endowment of \$200,000. An article by Professor E. Rutherford, in *Nature*, states that part of the income is to be devoted to the foundation of scholarships for the promotion of scientific research in Belgium, part to defray the expenses of international meetings to discuss scientific problems of interest, and the residue to be awarded in the form of grants to scientific investigators to assist them in their researches. For the first year, which terminates on May 1, 1913, a sum of about 17,500 francs is available for the latter purpose. It is the intention of the committee each year to give

grants for special lines of work. As the first international meeting was engaged in the discussion of the theories of radiation, it is proposed this year to assist preferentially researches on the general phenomena of radiation, comprising Röntgen rays and the rays from radio-active bodies, general molecular theory, and theories of units of energy. The grants will be awarded without distinction of nationality by the administrative committee of the institute on the recommendation of an international scientific committee. The administrative committee is composed of Professors P. Heger, E. Tassel and J. E. Verschaffelt, of Brussels; the scientific committee is composed of H. A. Lorentz (Haarlem), Mme. Curie (Paris), M. Brillouin (Paris), R. B. Goldschmidt (Brussels), H. Kamerlingh-Onnes (Leyden), W. Nernst (Berlin), E. Rutherford (Manchester), E. Warburg (Berlin), and M. Knudsen, secretary (Copenhagen).

As the result of a conference which was held under the auspices of the U. S. Bureau of Mines last September, of men who are interested in the saving of the lives of miners, there has been formed a society known as the American Mine Safety Association, with headquarters at 40th and Butler Streets, Pittsburgh, Pa. This association, which is now enrolling among its members the leading coal and metal mine operators, mining engineers and mine safety engineers of the country, has for its purpose the conservation of the lives and health of the miner and a reduction in property loss due to explosions or fires in mines. It will attempt to place before the miners standard methods to be used in rescue work and in first-aid to the injured. The work of the Bureau of Mines in reducing the number of deaths in the mines has led to the adoption of many different types of rescue apparatus, such as the oxygen helmets which the rescuers wear in a gas-filled mine, and also to the use of many different methods of resuscitation and first-aid to the injured. Hundreds of mines within the last three or four years have been equipped with rescue apparatus, rescue corps and first-aid corps.

Many of these men who are called upon in emergencies have developed their own ways of doing things and it is the opinion of the organizers of this association that the most efficient methods and apparatus should be found through actual use and recommended to the mining industry as a general standard. Mr. H. M. Wilson, the engineer in charge of the experiment station of the Bureau of Mines at Pittsburgh, has been selected as chairman of the executive committee of the association and has been instructed to carry on the work of organization. Membership in the American Mine Safety Association is open to any individual, firm, corporation or society interested in the reduction of the loss of life and property in mines.

THE faculty of medicine of Harvard University offers a course of free public lectures, to be given at the Medical School on Sunday afternoons at four o'clock, as follows:

January 5—"Preventive Medicine in relation to Industrial and International Concord," Dr. Charles W. Eliot.

January 12—"The Care and Feeding of Young Children," Dr. John Lovett Morse.

January 19—"Leprosy and its Care in Massachusetts," Dr. Charles J. White.

January 26—"What the State Board of Health is doing to protect the Health of the Citizens of Massachusetts," Dr. Mark W. Richardson.

February 2—"The Sexual Instinct—its Abuse and Control" (to men only), Dr. Edward H. Nichols.

February 9—"The Responsibility of the Community for the Prevalence of Venereal Disease," Dr. Hugh Cabot.

February 16—"Dangerous Effects of Patent Medicines," Dr. David L. Edsall.

February 23—"Fresh Air, Exercise and Physical Condition," Dr. Edward H. Bradford.

March 2—"The Bladder Ailments of Men in Later Life" (to men only), Dr. Paul Thorndike.

March 9—"Ophthalmic Catastrophes," Dr. Myles Standish.

March 16—"How to cultivate Emotional Poise in an Emotional Age," Dr. George L. Walton.

March 23—"The Rise of Experimental Medicine," Dr. Howard T. Karsner.

March 30—"Tumor Diseases Peculiar to Women" (to women only), Dr. William P. Graves.

April 6—"The Management of Scarlet Fever and Measles," Dr. E. H. Place.

April 13—"The New State Psychopathic Hospital," Dr. E. E. Southard.

April 20—"The Effect of Occupation on the Hearing Power," Dr. Clarence J. Blake.

April 27—"The Hygiene of Pregnancy" (to women only), Dr. Franklin S. Newell.

May 4—"Treatment of some Emergencies of a Surgical Nature," Dr. Howard A. Lothrop.

May 11—"The Preservation of the Natural Teeth," Dr. Charles A. Brackett.

May 18—"Future Lines of Investigation of Infectious Diseases," Dr. S. B. Wolbach.

AMONG the features of the British Association meeting in Birmingham in September next, as noted in the *London Times*, will be a number of popular science lectures. In view of the central position of Birmingham a large attendance of members is expected, and a local fund of not less than £6,000 is being raised in order that the arrangements may be worthy of the city. A private canvass has already obtained the promise of nearly £4,000, and an appeal for further subscriptions will be made at an early date. Twenty-seven years have elapsed since the last visit of the association to Birmingham. The meeting this year opens on Wednesday, September 10, and continues until the 17th. On the first day, in addition to various meetings, there will be a reception of the foreign guests and in the evening the president, Sir William White, will deliver his inaugural address. The program for Thursday, September 11, includes sectional meetings, a conference of delegates, a garden party, a popular science lecture and a reception. Next day the morning is to be devoted to sectional meetings. In the evening a discourse will be addressed to members, and there is again to be a popular science lecture to the general public. Saturday will be given up to excursions which are being arranged by a special sub-committee, including the principal local archeologists, geologists and botanists. On Sunday there will be services at the Cathedral and other places of worship. Sectional meetings will again be held on the following day, and in the afternoon there is to

be a public function at the university. The local committee will entertain the distinguished visitors at night, probably at a theater. Tuesday, September 16, will be devoted to sectional meetings in the morning, and a conference of delegates and a garden party at the Edgbaston Botanical Gardens in the afternoon. In the evening there is to be another popular science lecture and a discourse to members. On the following day the meeting closes.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE regents of the University of Wisconsin have decided to ask the state legislature, now in session, for \$1,000,000 to be appropriated in sums of \$250,000 a year for four years, in order to provide and equip dormitories for men, a men's commons and union and a student infirmary. They have also voted to request the continuance of the present appropriation of \$300,000 a year for the construction and equipping of academic buildings. For the further development of university extension work, the regents desire an increase of \$25,000 a year. Owing to the reduction in the assessed valuation of personal property, resulting from the adoption of the income tax in Wisconsin, the university's fund for current expenses provided for by the three eighths of a mill tax, has this year fallen below the amount anticipated. The regents, therefore, have requested that the sum of \$92,380 be appropriated to make up this year's decrease; that \$175,000 be provided for next year's decrease, and \$225,000 for the following year's decrease.

It appears from reports in the daily papers that Professor Willard C. Fisher, of Wesleyan University, known for his effective advocacy of legislation on behalf of the laboring classes of Connecticut, has been dismissed from his chair at Wesleyan University for stating that religion would benefit from the closing of churches for several years.

FORMER Dean W. A. Henry, of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, has presented his private library to the agricultural college. It will be maintained

largely for the use of the dean and director of the college and the station.

THE whole staff of the college of medicine and surgery of the University of Minnesota having resigned, the regents have named the following committee to consider and make recommendations concerning the reorganization of medical teaching in the university: Dean Westbrook, Drs. Moore, Green, Wilson (of Rochester), Tuohy (of Duluth), and Bratrud (of Warren), and the president of the university.

MR. ALFRED KNIGHT CHITTENDEN, forester in the U. S. Indian Service, Department of the Interior, has been appointed assistant to the director of the Engineering Experiment Station and lecturer on timber and timber resources in the College of Engineering of the University of Illinois.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. ELLIOTT, head of the education department at the University of Wisconsin, has refused the offer of the presidency of the University of Idaho recently made him by the regents of that institution.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CONN'S "BIOLOGY"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In the last number of SCIENCE (December 28) I notice a review of Conn's "Biology," by M. M., in which the reviewer draws parallels between the subject in hand and some other sciences. It would seem that the examples selected were ill chosen to meet the point at issue. But this may be due to the fact that others look upon biology differently from the reviewer.

Biology, being the study of living things, must be concerned with either plants or animals. A book written by either of the corresponding scientists is likely to be more accurate in all details, within his field, than is a book written by a scientist engaged in the other of the two fields. To cover accurately both divisions of the subject requires a breadth of view, and a degree of detailed knowledge in each field, not often combined in a single individual; especially in these days of high specialization.